

What is claimed is:

1. An implantable device for changing the spatial relationship between first and second bones, the device comprising a body configured and dimensioned for insertion into a joint located between the first and second bones and coated with a bone growth promoting material, wherein the bone growth promoting material includes a bone morphogenic protein.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein the bone growth promoting material includes demineralized bone.
3. The device of claim 2 wherein the demineralized bone is a powder.
4. The device of claim 1 wherein the bone growth promoting material includes collagen.
5. The device of claim 4 wherein the collagen is in the form of apatite compositions with collagen.
6. The device of claim 4 wherein the bone growth promoting material includes demineralized bone.
7. The device of claim 6 wherein the demineralized bone is a powder.
8. The device of claim 1 wherein the body has an open cellular structure to provide cavities in which bone can grow through.
9. The device of claim 8 wherein the body is made of a biocompatible metallic material.
10. The device of claim 9 wherein the body is made of tantalum.
11. The device of claim 9 wherein the body is made of stainless steel.

12. The device of claim 8 wherein the body includes a compartment for holding bone growth inducing material.

13. The device of claim 8 wherein at least some of the cavities contain a bone growth promoting material.

14. The device of claim 1 further including fastener means for fixedly connecting the body to at least one of the first and second bones.

15. The device of claim 14 wherein the fastener means includes at least one screw.

16. The device of claim 14 wherein the fastener means includes a first connector configured and dimensioned to connect the body to the first bone and a second connector configured and dimensioned to connect the body to the second bone.

17. The device of claim 1 wherein the body tapers from a trailing end portion to a leading end portion.

18. The device of claim 17 wherein the body has superior and inferior faces and a side surface therebetween.

19. The device of claim 18 wherein at least a portion of the side surface has a configuration corresponding to at least a section of an outer side surface of one of the first and second bones.